

For the past 6 months, Mary and I have been thinking of how we can continue to be relevant in God's vineyard during this last quadrant of our life. As we retreated in prayer, He led us to the following reflections:

## A QUICK REVIEW FROM 2013

### i. **Our mission statement:**

Our mission had evolved over time, through different circumstances and experiences to; *"Recruiting, discipling, training and leading young people into a lifetime vital relationship with Christ and for world impact"*. Or simply to see people living for the Glory of God (John 15:8)

### ii. **Our promise:**

Isaiah 49:6 *"it is too small a thing for you to be my servant, that you may restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth".*

From 2013, Mary and I were intentionally committed in praying this promise as we trusted God to keep widening our horizon, not only to the diverse cultures of Cameroon, but to the Nations beyond..., *"the ends of the earth"*. When we retreated to pray for a way forward, we came home with this fresh conviction: *"That in 10 to 15 years, we will be able to raise **10 leader trainers and 100 ministry leaders effectively leading ministry in strategic locations in Cameroon and beyond**"*.

### iii. **Our action:**

- ✓ We created the equippers team for a five years training focusing on a deep walk with God, developing character like Jesus and equipping for world impact.
- ✓ Building a heart for mission was equally a major focus. So, we ensured that each trainee was committed to the ministries of Evangelism, Establishing converts and Equipping disciples for the ministry plus Training (3Es +T).
- ✓ We accompanied each of our disciples through the different phases of life to ensure a smooth transition.

## OUR PRESENT SITUATION

After 5 years, we decided to evaluate the 10 to 15-year goals. Among so many that have happened, we thought it wise to highlight these few as follows;

- ✓ In our determination to ensure quality and focus, we continually reviewed/ retained the standards of our team. As a result, of the 28 who were recruited into the equippers team, 6 retained the qualifications for continued leader development (in terms of gifting and abilities). Many have settled as leader of ministry in different platforms. A few were not able to complete the training for various reasons. We still thank God for what they attained because they too are engaged in serving the body of Christ in different ways.
- ✓ The NAVS now have a ministry presence in 7 out of the 10 Regions of Cameroon.
- ✓ Over the years, Louis (+ Sunita) have developed a strong passion and conviction for full time ministry out of Cameroon, *"----- ends of the earth"*.
- ✓ We have **6 potential leader trainers** plus **40 leaders** who are engaged in different ministry platforms while still connected to different training and development needs. (There are 30 more leaders because each of these 6 have recruited and have been co-training their key guys with us for the past 1 year now).

## THE WAY FORWARD (Leader development)

We have come to realize that to continue to be relevant to the fast growing and maturing teams of disciples, we must focus more on leader development. This will require more of coaching of us as we accompany them through their lives to ensure that they stay focused. With leader development as our new ministry function, we needed conformation from His word. As we prayed over this, He led us to the following thoughts that we consider foundational for laying groundwork for fruitfulness in this new ministry role in the years to come:

**Our focus:** Laying foundation for a new ministry function.

**Key passage of conviction:** 2 Peter 1:12-15 (with 15 as key verse)

*So, I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.*

**Caption:** Things to remember

**Overall goal:** We intend to ensure we leave a legacy of men and women who are committed to a life time of reproducing a missional-mind-set ministry.

### A summary reflection on our thoughts:

#### 1. Things that our key men and women must remember even after we are no more:

- ✓ **Sound doctrine** (2 Peter 2) which is an overflow of a deep and continuous walk with God
- ✓ **Character like Jesus**
- ✓ **A heart for missions** which is measured by a strong/ broad based grassroots ministry with clear evidence of ongoing 3Es +T ministries while keeping in perspective a vision for world impact.

#### 2. To make the needed input, we need to;

- ✓ **Sacrifice time and pleasures.** We must be good stewards of time if we are to give the valued time needed by each of these key persons.
- ✓ **Discipline.** Good intentions do not necessarily guaranty good results. Discipline is needed, especially as it entails taking us out of our comfort zones.
- ✓ **Engage our life and experiences** into the life processes of each of these key guys. This will enable us to accompany them through the different transitions in life.
- ✓ **Mobilize resources** by leveraging human, material and financial blessings needed to facilitate the efforts.
- ✓ **Be a model to them.** We must be intentional in demonstrating faith (dependence on God), courage and focus.

#### 3. Given that this is a new ministry function, we need to stick closely to our mentors for needed and timely coaching.

#### 4. Those short-listed for this phase of ministry are:

- i. Wilson and Rose Yuniwo.
- ii. Romeo and Emerance Assomou.
- iii. Emmanuel (+ Doris) Chopou.
- iv. Rene (+Rabiatu) Kum
- v. Louis (+Sunita) Sonkey
- vi. Aliyu (+ Melvis) Lon
- vii. Fidelis Kwoka
- viii. Godlove and Sydwan Ankiambom.
- ix. Paul Kernyuy

**5. The starting point** for each of them will be:

- i. Discuss their life pursuit (mission statement)
- ii. 10 – 15 years plan
- iii. 5-10 years plan
- iv. Immediate plan
- v. Time line with keen attention to Ministry and Life Experiences gathered along the way
- vi. Inventory Skills and Tools gathered for personal growth, development and ministry.

**6. Point 5 above will:**

- Help us diagnose what they have and what they need that will ensure development.
- Set measurable and attainable objectives as well as ensure accountability.
- Consequently, help us know how we fit and what role we must play in facilitating their developmental process.

**7. Prayer concerns:**

- ✓ Thank God for leading us through this journey for all these years. Its not all about accomplishment. There are also down moments. But we are always excited at how His grace keeps us going
- ✓ Being a new role, we need close coaching and mentoring. Pray that we would be able to have this support.
- ✓ This role requires more of a modelling lifestyle. Pray that God should keep transforming our hearts, so we may be able to speak the words of Paul in Phil 4:8-9.
- ✓ Our mobility will increase, and our visits will need to be longer and consequently, will have an increase in financial needs. So, pray for God's provision.
- ✓ Lastly, the political atmosphere in the North West and South West is getting worst by the day, thus increasing the risk of lives both to the government's forces and the separatists' fighters. So, pray for safety.